



the Louisiana Director's **CONTRACTOR NEWS SOURCE**

An Official Quarterly Newsletter for Louisiana Licensing Board For Contractors

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Summer 2005

Board Builds Community Relationships

The Contractors College -- Small and Emerging Businesses

City of New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin's Office of Supplier Diversity has put together a comprehensive curriculum for small and emerging businesses. The forum is called The Contractor's College and consists of 10-12 weeks of strategic learning topics for those who are interested in obtaining a contractor's license for local and statewide construction projects.

The program provides close face to face interaction with "expert" presenters regarding topics such as Business Planning Estimating, Bonding & Insurance, Contractor Licensing, Marketing, and other business savvy topics.

Chuck Marceaux, Executive Director of the State Licensing Board for Contractors, has participated in four training sessions as a guest lecturer in the series. Two colleges have already been completed and the most recent graduates were recognized at the University of New Orleans, University Center Ballroom. The program has produced over 70 graduates in the two program periods from September 2004 to April 2005. Several graduates have already obtained state licensing and many others have applied and will

apply. Marceaux categorized the first contractor college "students" as a diverse group of entrepreneurs, small emerging businesses and sole proprietorships, consisting of men and women of ethnic diversity and who attended classes faithfully after normal working hours for 2 to 3 hours, Tuesday and Thursday evenings for the ten week course.

The graduates networked with one another and developed strong personal and professional business relationships and referrals for services. There appeared to be a sense of family comradeship among the graduates. They were very attentive throughout the program studies and asked excellent questions indicating their interest in the processes and realizing the importance of the information being taught and shared.

The program's success can be attributed to the top-down support of Mayor Nagin and his professional, competent and hardworking staff. The following is a list of those staff members who have their own investment in time and sacrifice towards success of the



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the Louisiana Director's
CONTRACTOR NEWS SOURCE

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AGC - Sixth Congressional District

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AGC - Third Congressional District

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AGC - Fifth Congressional District

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ABC - Sixth Congressional District

Art Favre

ABC - Sixth Congressional District

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Mechanical Contractors Association

First Congressional District

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Member-at-Large - Sixth Congressional District

Garland Meredith

NECA - Fifth Congressional District

Bert Wilson

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First Congressional District

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Member-at-Large - Sixth Congressional District

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Beth Scroggs, *Human Resources/Contracts*

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2005 Licensing Board



Top Row (L to R): Jimmie Cascio, Don Descant, Garland Meredith, David Gallo, Kirk Williams, Bert Wilson, Jonathan Holloway, and Nelson "Andy" Dupuy, Jr.

Bottom Row (L to R): Art Favre, Tara Brown, Vic Weston, Byron Talbot, Donald Lambert, Phyllis Adams, and George Crain, Jr.



Chuck Marceaux, Executive Director



Joy Evans, Board Administrator

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Byron E. Talbot, Chairman

Byron E. Talbot is a man dedicated to bettering the construction industry with a servant's heart.

Talbot has served on the Licensing Board for seventeen years and was appointed chairman almost six years ago. His vision as chairman is to continue to improve the Licensing Board process and make the construction industry a better trade.

His biggest challenges as chairman has been making changes to the testing program. "We are fortunate enough to have Chuck Marceaux, Executive Director and Joy Evans, Board Administrator who manage the day to day business of the Board," Talbot said.

Talbot, born and raised in Thibodaux, Louisiana, on Bayou LaFourche, has been in the construction business since 1975. He became interested in the



construction business after accepting a position at Exxon Company, USA in the production department where they handled construction.

Talbot started Byron E. Talbot Contractor, Inc., a heavy/highway construction firm, in 1976. In the late 1980's, he formed B.E.T. Construction, Inc. (also known as BETCO), a commercial construction company.

Two of Talbot's children are involved in his construction business, and both enjoy working with him.

In Memoriam Jimmie Cascio

Jimmie P. Cascio, an active member of the Louisiana State Licensing Board for Contractors for 16 years, passed away from his battle with cancer, Friday, July 1, 2005 in Bossier City, Louisiana. He was 84 years old. Jimmie served on the Licensing Board for Contractors as both a NECA member and most recently as a member of the American Subcontractors Association (ASA). He was also a former member of the Bossier Parish Police Jury, a member of the National Exchange Club, the Civitan Club, a member of the Contractor's Educational Trust Fund, the National Electrical Contractors Association, Deen's Deputies, a member of the Board of Adjustments for the Planning Commission for 20 years, and U.S. Army veteran of WWII. His dedication and commitment to the construction industry and to the citizens of Louisiana was sincerely appreciated. Our deepest sympathies go out to his family and friends.



Contractor's College

continued from front page

Contractor's College: Don Hutchinson, Executive Assistant to the Mayor for Economic Development, Rhonda Woods, Director of the Office of Supplier Diversity, Latifia Carter, Deputy Director of the Office of Supplier Diversity, and the Contractor's College Project Manager, Gino Carr, President of Shift 4 Consulting. Also present for the graduation ceremonies was Johnny Matthews, Director of Small and Disadvantaged Business Development Programs within the Louisiana Department of Economic Development.

Several licensed contractors in the New Orleans area have made contributions by providing presenters for the classes as well as mentoring some of the students in job training opportunities. Although underwritten by special grants, each student made a financial investment in the outcome by paying registration fees for enrollment and have committed to complete the course work.

It is our opinion that the Contractor's College for small and emerging businesses has already assisted many small and emerging business owners and we were glad to do our part in assisting these individuals in an effort to achieve their business goals.

State Licensing Board for Contractor Building Construction Exam Validation Process



Louisiana firms participate as subject matter experts in Building Construction Exam Validation Process.

The following representatives from Louisiana firms participated as subject matter experts in the first session of State Licensing Board's Building Construction Exam Validation Process held on April 14, 2005:

Chris Stuart, Joffrion & Stuart General Contractors, LLC, Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Chuck Westerchil, Westerchil Construction Co., Alexandria, Louisiana; Bill Doyle, Brice Building Co., Inc., Metairie, Louisiana; Sterling Hebert, Hebert Steel Co., Inc., Gonzales, Louisiana; Tommy Bulliard, Bulliard Construction Co., Inc., St. Martinville, Louisiana; Eileen Long, Broadmoor, LLC, Metairie, Louisiana; Clint Graham, Lincoln Builders, Inc., Ruston, Louisiana; Chuck Descant, M.D. Descant, Inc., Bunkie, Louisiana; August Gallo, Gallo Mechanical Contractors, Inc., New Orleans, Louisiana

Licensing Board Participates in Louisiana AGC Conference

Executive Director, Chuck Marceaux, recently participated in the Louisiana AGC Summer Conference held in Destin, Florida. He gave an update about the National Building Construction Exam Program that NASCLA, the National Association of State Contractor Licensing Agencies, has been developing for the past seven years. A panel presentation of issues relevant to the construction industry was comprised of those shown in the photo.



Speakers at the Louisiana AGC Summer Conference: Tony Sussmann, FHWA; Steve Sandherr, AGC of America, Sam Hunter, AGC of America, Courtney Fenet, Louisiana AGC; Rick Holm, DOTD and Chuck Marceaux, Licensing Board for Contractors.

EDUCATION GETS A LIFT

In the 2004 Legislative Session a bill was passed that allowed licensees of the Louisiana Licensing Board for Contractors to make voluntary contributions through the Board to any of the accredited Schools of Construction in the state. The Board revamped its license renewal form to accommodate that contribution.

Renewal notices were mailed in November of 2004 and the Board is proud to begin forwarding those contributions to the LSU Department of Construction Management, to the Louisiana Tech School of Construction and to the University of Louisiana Monroe School of Construction Management. Over 350 licensees made contributions to the three Schools totaling \$45,000.

LSU's Construction Industry Advisory Council began exploring the license fee increase the year before and in 2004 asked the Board to consider the voluntary legislation. What's especially rewarding about the partnership between the Universities and the Board is that 100% of the contributions are remitted to the Schools. The Board passes through all the monies the licensees donate to the various Schools.

To those licensees that recognize that the education of our young men and women at these Schools are the future of the construction industry in Louisiana we say thank you and look forward to even more contributions next year.

National News

Louisiana's Executive Director Addresses Building Division of National AGC

Memphis, TN--June 23 & 24

Executive Director, Chuck Marceaux, who also serves as a member of NASCLA's National Exam Standards Committee was invited to address the National AGC Building Division meeting held in Memphis, Tennessee recently. The purpose was to inform the Building Division



Executive Director Chuck Marceaux addresses the Building Division of National AGC

of NASCLA's progress in developing a National Commercial Building Exam which would allow states to reciprocate with one another to eliminate the need for contractors to take multiple examinations for the building trade exam when performing work in those states. In other words, once a contractor's firm had qualified by taking a national exam in building construction, other member states of NASCLA would approve the contractor as having qualified in their state. This would reduce time and cost significantly for travel costs associated with taking multiple exams. The meeting was also beneficial to both NASCLA and AGC in that two focus panels were formed to conduct an independent review of the work performed by subject matter experts involved in the National Job Analysis project involved in the National Exam project. In addition, AGC members at the meeting were solicited to participate in documenting daily log activities while working in the field constructing an actual ongoing project. This detail work will go towards developing the National Building Construction Exam. The Louisiana State Licensing Board and the 29 other NASCLA member states appreciate the participation of the National AGC in this worthwhile endeavor. NASCLA also recognizes the interest and participation and support of the other National trade organizations involved in several facets of the program and some of their members are participating at different levels of the program.

NASCLA (National Association of State Contractor Licensing Agencies) National Building Examination National Job Analysis

The following representatives served NASCLA as subject matter experts at its first session of the National Commercial Building Occupational Analysis held at the Louisiana State Licensing Board for Contractors office in Baton Rouge March 31 - April 2, 2005: Tary Carlson, Ethos Development, Inc., Lake Oswego, Oregon; Paul Del Vecchio, Concrete and Formwork Group of Florida, Inc., Boca Raton, Florida; Bill Doyle, Brice Building Co., Inc., Metairie, Louisiana; Robert Earl, Earl Consulting, Co., LLC, Sacramento, California; Theresa Rosenberg, Theresa J. Rosenberg, Architect-Attorney, Raleigh, North Carolina; Michael Stone, Construction Programs and Results, Washougal, Washington; Garry Terry, Sundt Construction, Phoenix, Arizona; Chuck Westerchil Construction, Alexandria, Louisiana.

The following Occupational Analysis Advisory Committee was in attendance during the first session: Heidi Lincer-Hill, PhD, Chair, NASCLA Examination Standards Committee, Supervisor of Test Validation and Development, California Contractors State License Board; Charles Marceaux, Member, NASCLA Board of Directors, Executive Director, Louisiana State Licensing Board for Contractors; Leonard Servat, Director, Application & Examination, Louisiana State Licensing Board For Contractors; Representing NASCLA's National Occupational Analysis' Contractor, Professional Examination Service, were Sandra Greenberg, PhD, VP for Research and Development and Patricia Muenzen, MA, Director and Development.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON NATIONAL NEWS,
VISIT THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE
CONTRACTORS LICENSING AGENCIES'
WEBSITE AT**

www.nascla.org

Louisiana Licensing Board Involved in Developing National Examination Standards

Phoenix, Arizona--June 27 & 28

Executive Director, Chuck Marceaux, and Examination Director, Leonard Servat participated in a working meeting held in Phoenix, Arizona for the purpose of developing a National Examination program for use by the states in the effective regulation of the contracting professions. Louisiana and 29 other states belong to NASCLA, the National Association of State Contractor Licensing Agencies. The Louisiana Contractor Licensing Board was one of the founding charter members of the Organization, whose purpose is to promote the effective regulation of those construction firms providing construction services to both private and public users in the United States. The NASCLA Standards Committee has been working since 1998 on a project entitled, the National Contractor Competency Exam Program. NASCLA

sponsored a national survey of all states who regulated construction in some aspect in the area of scopes of work and identified 23 classifications of work that resulted in similar content and meaning. From there, NASCLA developed a process for auditing the test development organizations to NASCLA standards. In this way nationwide credibility, faith and trust, might be given to such a National Examination program. NASCLA has also underwritten the cost of developing a National Occupational analysis for a National Commercial Building Construction Exam.



Industry experts meet to develop a national examination program.

This National Occupational Analysis is scheduled to be ready to provide to the interested test development firms by the end of 2005. NASCLA anticipates the advent of the nation's first National Contractor Exam in the fall of 2006. The construction industry is in support of the project.

Louisiana Goes to New York to Assist in Developing a National Contractor Commercial Building Examination

Board Vice-Chairman, Vic Weston, and Executive Director Chuck Marceaux, will participate along with national contractor subject matter experts at the second national task force meeting being held in New York City from August 11-13, 2005. Both Mr. Weston and Mr. Marceaux serve on NASCLA's National Exam Standards Committee



National Exam Subject Matter Experts Going to New York in August

responsible for overseeing the development of the nation's first National Commercial Building Examination. The examination is charted to become available in the fall of 2006. Construction contracting organizations support this effort to reduce the redundancy of multiple construction trade testing currently required by regulatory states. In principal, a building construction contractor who takes the National Exam places itself in a position to not take any additional exam given by a NASCLA state member. NASCLA is an acronym for the National Association of States Contractor Licensing Agencies. This effort is an economic development issue between states and should reduce the costs and bureaucracy between states.

Wanda Cowsar Named Employee of the Year



Byron Talbot, Chairman (left) and Chuck Marceaux, Executive Director (right) present Wanda Cowsar with an Employee of the Year Award.

Wanda Cowsar is officially the Purchasing Agent for the Contractor's Board. However, in 2004, she assumed a lead role in transitioning our database to the CAVU Licensure System. Wanda had worked in computer operations from September, 1996 until March, 2003, when she assumed her current position.

In grateful acknowledgment of outstanding leadership and exemplary performance during the CAVU Licensure System transition process, the Louisiana State Licensing Board for Contractors recognizes Wanda Cowsar as Employee of the Year, 2004.

**THINK
ABOUT
IT**

"Everyday is
a multiple
choice test we
are given."

Dale Brown

"If you
continually serve
yourself, you will
eventually be
by yourself."

Andy
Stanley

THE NEWSLETTER NEW LOOK

We have revamped our quarterly newsletter to keep you more informed of what the Licensing Board is doing for you and its community. We hope you enjoy the "new" newsletter.

Louisiana One Call Bulletin ... Pipeline Damage Prevention Notice To Louisiana

To prevent damage to underground natural gas and other hazardous material pipelines located in Louisiana -



CALL BEFORE YOU DIG,
wait 48 hours for the site to
be marked, observe the
marks and dig with care.

CALL LOUISIANA ONE CALL
AT 1-800-272-3020 (TOLL
FREE) 48 HOURS IN AD-
VANCE, excluding weekends
and holidays, before
digging is scheduled to
begin.

HAVE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION AVAILABLE:

- Name and telephone number of the excavator and name and telephone number of the company.
- Date and time the work is scheduled to begin.
- Specific location address or description of the work site.
- Nearest intersecting roadway to the work site.
- Distance and direction of the work site from the nearest intersection.
- Advise the Louisiana One Call operator if explosives will be used.

Maintain the locate ticket number provided by the Louisiana One Call operator. It is your proof of the call and you may be requested, by an enforcement agency, to provide this ticket number at the job site.

If digging activity comes within eighteen inches of a utility line or pipeline, exercise extreme caution. Hand digging is recommended to expose the buried line.

Markings for underground utilities are considered valid as long as they are visible up to ten calendar days from the "mark by" time. "Mark by" time is provided by the Louisiana One Call operator and excludes holidays and weekends. For larger projects, call in only the work that can be accomplished within a ten day period.

If damage occurs, notify the utility operator or pipeline company directly.

If there is an emergency situation (immediate danger to life, health or property and requires immediate attention), take steps to safeguard health and property.

Wherever possible, use white paint, stakes or flags in order to designate the area of proposed excavation.

Remember, not all utilities are members of Louisiana One Call; you should call non-member utility operators directly.

Civil Penalties range up to \$25,000 for violations to the "Dig" law.

PLEASE REMEMBER - To "Dig Safely," call before you dig, wait 48 hours for the site to be marked, observe the marks, and dig with care.

Louisiana One Call can be reached from your cell phone by dialing #DIG

NASCLA

National Association of State Contractors Licensing Agencies
P.O. Box 14941 · Scottsdale, AZ 85267 · Fax (480) 948-4117

IF YOU NEED INFORMATION ON CONTRACTORS' LICENSING IN OTHER STATES, YOU NEED

A COPY OF THE **CONTRACTORS STATE LICENSING INFORMATION DIRECTORY**

The 2005 edition identifies over 170 state agencies that regulate the construction industry. The directory summarizes the pre-qualification, licensing, examination, and bonding requirements. Information regarding reciprocity, license classifications, incorporating, and fees is also included.

PLEASE SEND _____ book(s) at \$40.00 each \$ _____

SHIPPING: \$10.00 for the first book (\$3.00 for each additional book) \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

SHIP TO: Name _____ Firm _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____

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Name on card (please print) _____

Signature _____

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